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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 399. JANUARY, 1940.

THE MAN AND THE MUCK-RAKE.

From the Painting by Gunning King.

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THE MASTER. THE CHURCH. LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY.

"One Lord One Faith, One God and Father of all."—EPH. IV. 5, 6.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The New Year dawns. The Christmas hymns still echo in our ears.

"Oh, hush your noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.

Finland one of the noblest and most heroic countries in the world is being ruthlessly attacked, her crime being that she maintains her independence and integrity. On the anniversary of the day she became independent, Luther s hymn was quoted by her spokesman, and sung by her people. Psalm XLVI. "God is our refuge and strength."

May God defend her, and the other small nations which are in South Eastern Europe and Asia Minor who are resisting aggression.

* * *

An appeal on behalf of the Irish Sustentation Fund appears in these pages. It was to advocate this Fund, that with the generous aid of Sir John Campbell, this magazine was started. An article appeared in one of the early numbers, describing the graphic commencement of the system of Sustentation Funds, when the Free Church of Scotland, seceded from the Established Church, and as the procession filed out of the Assembly Hall, —many of the ministers having by their action forfeited their parishes and glebes, and having to face a future at the moment unprovided for, so far as material support was concerned, an old woman held up her withered arms and blessed them. "I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread,' and with that blessing pronounced upon them, they gathered into the building, taken for the purpose, and constituted themselves into the Free Church. Their first action was to found the Sustentation Fund, and a great wave of feeling and deep enthusiasm spread over Scotland.

* * *

We are naturally interested in the well-being of our young people, all of whom are more or less under great strain at this time, in their various vocations. Mr. Glyn Davies has been elected President of the Students' Representative Council, and Mr. J. Radcliffe, the President of the International Relations Committee at Queen's University. Mr. Ivan Davies, R.A.F., is still in Irak, reputed to be the Garden of Eden, and at the moment of writing this, has just had a sail up one of the tributaries of the Euphrates. Robert Andrews of Kircubbin, who is in the R.A.F. has been "adopted" by the Killinchy Branch of the Women's League. It is a matter of cheerfulness and inspiration, for those who have gone out to serve their country, to know that they have good friends keeping them in mind. As mentioned elsewhere Mr Bruce Slipper is on War Service, in the Merchantile Service.

* * *

The N.S.P. Church, as such, is not responsible for any opinion or declaration in this magazine, by whomsoever expressed, unless contained in an official document.

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February, 1940, number published on Saturday 27th January, 1940. Copy sent in before January 20th, will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAGUE.—The next meeting will take place in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, on Friday, 12th January, 1940, when the Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc, will give a dramatised talk on "Poetry." Letter held over.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. J, Shaw Brown, 1 Greenmount Avenue, Manse Road, Bangor.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

REPORTS.

Newry. — Mr. Geo. Bruce Slipper (the son of the late Rev. Geo. J. Slipper, for 25 years the much-loved minister of this church) has been called up for service in the Mercantile Marine. He served in the same capacity (under the Blue Funnel Line, Messrs. A. Holt and Co.) in the Great War during 1917-18, and was awarded two medals. He volunteered for further service in the crisis of September, 1938, and was called up at the end of last September. Mr. Bruce Slipper for the last two months has been on war service with the Laird Line, not with the Blue Funnel Line, on which he was asked to accept service again; the former being more convenient for him.

Ministers' Conference. — The 355th Conference was held on Monday, December 4th, 1939, at the Orpheus Restaurant, Co-Operative Building, York Street, Belfast. The host was the Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., of Newry. Great sympathy was expressed with the Rev. W. Howard Payne on the resolution of the All Souls' congregation to close the church for public worship, except on one Sunday in the month. Mr. Howard Payne commenced his ministry under difficult circumstances. He had to contend with an ebb tide, for sources of revenue were beginning gradually to be shut off, and time was taking its toll of old supporters. The congregation has made brave efforts, and it is with much regret that it has arrived at its present decision. The hope was expressed, that brighter prospects may soon open out before Mr. Howard Payne.

A brief discussion took place on "Nothing" — "No-thing." In the beginning—God: The Rig Veda has a passage "Nor-aught, nor naught existed." An ancient book, opened with a blank page, on the next was a circle with a point in the centre, following that, a horizontal line, and on the one following that this was crossed by a perpendicular. This was the germ, and the forces negative and positive awakening in the nucleus, through many stages to emerge as a cosmos John's Gospel opens with the Word, the Light showing in the darkness, from cosmogenesis to anthropogenesis, culminating in the 'Word made flesh.'' A German King testing a candidate for a chaplaincy, caused to be passed up to the preacher, a text in a sealed envelope,—on opening it, it was a blank sheet of paper. The preacher was not taken aback, but unfolded the story of Creation. Space was not empty, there was a fullness of the seeming void.

The discussion turned on how to make more use of the Sunday School Conferences. Was the prize-essay system the best? How about courses of instruction, with examinations in them conducted in the various schools?

The far-reaching problem of the decline of churches was touched upon. One after another had been closed. Ballymena, Limavady, Carrickfergus, Clonmel, and others elsewhere. What was the blight which wrought the havoc? How came church-committees to be formed at first? Once on a time, it was stated, stipend was paid to minister direct, as a fee is paid to a doctor, and committees came into existence to help the minister to collect his stipend. It is within memory that a minister did go round collecting his stipend. The different attitude towards the ministry at one time from that which insidiously is now gaining a foothold. A whole series of points were unfolded, to call for a series of conferences to tackle these problems fairly and squarely.

After tea several of the ministers walked over to York Street Church, and spent some time in inspecting the various objects of interest there. The mark to be hit, inside the porch is £1,000. The previous Sunday night showed it at £510.

The best thanks was tendered to the Rev. J. McCleery for his kind hospitality. Under present conditions it is impossible for ministers to hold their conference in the country.

Ballee. — Preaching at a Remembrance Sunday service in Ballee Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Charles Simpson said: It is no small thing that on one day in the year the English-speaking family should be

brought into spiritual communication by a common memory and a common fellowship that transcends all divisions of thought and creed. Twenty-one years ago, whoever we were, whatever we were doing, whatever sorrows we nursed, we were all suddenly full of hope. We had fought and won the war that was to end war. So at least we thought. We believed, strange as it now seems, that there would be a new heaven and a new earth paid for by the blood and sufferings of our gallant men. They bequeathed to us a noble heritage. They died for the final deliverance of the world from the slavery and bloodshed of ages. Collection for Haig Fund.

All Souls', Belfast. — The young people of all Souls ran a very successful dance on Wednesday, November 26th, at the Rosemary Hall. Over eighty people were present and the young people were able to hand over £3 13s.

An evening service was held in the Crypt on Sunday, December 2nd. It was fairly well attended and proved so successful that services will be held in the Crypt every Sunday.

Killinchy.—The people of the district are delighted to know that at a future date they are again to have the pleasure of hearing the Killinchy Players in "Professor Tim." Three new players are in the cast—Mrs. Hamilton Morrow (formerly Miss Jean Kirkpatrick), whose ability in elecution is well known and appreciated. Miss Jeannie Gilmore has taken part in small sketches with great success. Mr. Craig Kenmore is a novice, but is promising well, and we wish him better health than he has had recently.

Under the auspices of the Women's League, a whist drive and dance was organised on 17th November, in Ardmillan Hall. As the result a sum of £15 was sent to the Duke of Abercorn's Fund, for the Red Cross Society.

Mr. H. A. Kelly acted as M.C. for whist.

The prizes were presented by Miss M. McIlwrath. (Ladies) 1, Mrs. Scott, Comber; 2, Miss Grace McKee, Island Reagh; 3, Mrs. S. Morrow, Ardigon. Consolation, Miss McClurg. (Gentlemen), 1, Mr. John Coey, Ballydrain; 2, Mr. Sam Morrow, Ringneil; 3, Mr. T. Strain, Carnasure. Consolation, Mr. John Thomson, Killinchy.

Mr. Wallace Gregg made a very cheery and energetic M.C. for the dance.

Excellent music was supplied by Mr. Bob Geddis and his band, and the evening was concluded by singing the National Anthem.

APPEAL FOR OLD COPIES.

Copies of "The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian" from 1934 to present day, January, 1940; also odd numbers prior to 1934. Have bound copies from 1907 to 1925, but do not wish to mutilate these. Parcels may be lett at the Depository or posted to:—Mrs. Jackson, 334, Ravenhill Rd., Belfast. See notice.

THE BIBLE FORBIDDEN.

From the "Sunday Chronicle," we learn that under a newly issued decree from the Nazi Government, German soldiers must not read the Bible or even possess it. Any soldier, sailor or airman who disobeys the new order will be tried by court-martial and sentenced to imprisonment. In the official organ of the Nazi party, "The Black Corps," "Bible-reading is not calculated to stimulate the martial spirit." "Neither the Bible nor any other religious book must find a place in the soldier's haversack." "In the last war, the spirit of mutiny in the German Army began 'among the country where devotion to the Christian faith was prevalent.' " "The sole and exclusive source of his spiritual invigoration must be the National Socialist teaching."

McCleery. — On Tuesday, December 12th, 1939, at Ballyryland, Raloo, Joan Mary, infant daughter of William and Marian McCleery. Interred at Glenoe, near Larne.

OBITUARY.

Charlie Stewart, Downpatrick.

Stream Street is mourning the loss of one of its chief members in the person of Charlie Stewart (as he was affectionately known), a most kindly and jovial personality, a good neighbour, and is much missed by the whole countryside, and greatly missed by the Church, of which he was a committeeman and generous supporter. He was a regular reader of the Non-Subscriber for many years, and took a keen interest in all that concerned the welfare of the Church. We shall miss his genial presence and his ready smile. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Stewart and the members of the family.

Rev. Henry Hall, in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, speaking from Rev. xxii, 3, paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Charles Stewart, of Marshalstown, as a man whom it was a privilege to know and to count as a friend, so convincingly sincere, so loyal to all that is highest and best. Sometimes (the preacher concluded) the life beyond has been regarded as an endless rest, an eternity of inactivity. My own belief is that greater work will be placed in our hands in the hereafter. There, as here, 'His servants shall serve Him,' and I believe that our loved friend has gone on to new fields of high and holy endeavour in the service of God.—"Down Recorder."

Mrs. M. WATKINS.

We regret to record the death of this lady who passed away in Liverpool on December 3rd.

She will be remembered by many as being a helpmate to her husband, who predeceased her, during the later years of his ministry at Mountpottinger.

The shock of his untimely death at Park Lane, near Wigan, in 1933 caused a breakdown in health and for the past two or three years she was more or less an invalid, but paid a visit to Donaghadee in the summer of 1938 which appeared to be helpful. In recent months a stroke added to heart trouble proved too much for her strength and it was evident that she could not survive.

Much sympathy will be felt for her son who at sixteen years of age is left an orphan.

MEN'S LEAGUE.

The monthly meeting of the Belfast Chapter was held in the Central Hall, on November 30, 1939. The Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., D.D., presided over an appreciative audience of considerable size, which having in mind the wretched weather conditions, bore eloquent testimony of the regard the members have for their president, and they were well repaid by hearing an address which contained a great deal of most interesting and historical information. "The Wilde Geese" were undoubtedly a verile race and made their presence felt, and the cumulative result of their emigration cannot be estimated.

The next meeting will be held in the Mission Hall, Stanhope Street, on January 12th, when the speaker will be Mr. W. Christie, his subject being, "The Development of the Human Race."

THE MAN WITH THE MUCKRAKE.

"The Interpreter took them into a room, where was a man that could look no way but downwards, with a muck-rake in his hand. There stood also one over his head, with a celestial crown in his hand, and proffered him that crown for his muck-rake; but the man did neither look up nor regard, but raked to himself the straws, the small sticks, and the dust of the floor." —"Bunyan's Pilgrims' Progress."

Mrs. E. Jackson is compiling a record of matter concerning Mountpottinger Unitarian Church and would welcome contributions such as Press reports of meetings, programmes of concerts, etc. Copies of the N.S.P. Magazine would be useful, particularly early numbers.

Parcels may be left at the Depository or posted to 334, Ravenhill Rd., Belfast, in which case postage will be refunded if desired.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MINISTERIAL INCOMES.

To the Editor N.S.P. Magazine.

2nd December, 1939.

Dear Sir,—In these times when the cost of living is rising so rapidly, I venture to appeal to my fellow laymen to consider an increase in Stipend by making a voluntary increase in the coming year, 1940. Many of our minsters despite help from various funds, have incomes out of all proportion to their fellow ministers in other denominations. How they manage to live and present such respectable appearance at public functions is a mystery. An examination of congregational statistics in Synod Report shows that in many of our churches the stipend collected per member averages barely 6d a week; truly we are a non-subscribing body in more ways than one, indeed in several cases even including the Sunday collections, that average is barely attained.

I hope that the committees of our churches especially those in the country, will consider this appeal and urge the members to make, for at least the duration of the war, a larger contribution to their ministers' income.

Yours, etc.,
H. J. F. ORR.

HOW A SONG WON A MANSE.

Ballymoney,
23/11/39.

Sir,—Three points in the October issue: (1) "How a song won a Manse." Strictly speaking, "manse" is from the mediaeval Latin "mansa," from "manere," to dwell, and is the same word as "mansion" and the French "maison."

(2) "What we owe to the Jewish Race." Ethnology knows of no Jewish race. A quarter of the Jews are Mediterraneous. The other three-quarters (the Aslkenazim) i.e., the Jews of Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Rumania, are alpines who have lost their Mediterranean characteristics by large-scale proselytism. Dr. Stanley A. Cook, the Professor Emeritus of Hebrew at Cambridge, and Rabbi Israel Mattuck in "What are the Jews?" have shown that the modern Jews are not descended from the Jews of the Bible.

(3) There is no reason why St. John Ervine's father should not have seen or heard of the electric light, the telephone, and the typewriter. The first Electric Lighting Act was passed in 1882. The Remington typewriter was on sale in England in 1874, and at the centennial exhibition in 1876 the Graham Bell telephone "created world-wide interest." It seems hard to believe, too, that in the 'eighties nobody in Belfast had ever seen "The Times."

Yours, etc.,
FELIX HOLT.

"Manse, in Scottish law, originally meant a determinate quantity of ground . . . fit for pasture and tillage, set apart for the use of the clergyman of every rural parish." —National Eneyclopedia. Manse, residence of a clergyman (Scot.) (Low L. mansa, a farm—manea, mansus, to remain.) Chamber's Etymological Dictionary. (Ed.)

UNITED SERVICE.

Dear Sir,—I would like, through the medium of your magazine, to enquire if it would be possible for our group of churches to hold a united service, each Sunday afternoon in, say, Rosemary Hall, similar to the service held in Assembly, Y.M.C.A., and Grosvenor Halls.

This, I believe would be welcomed by many of our people and at the same time help to further the principles of our religion. It would also give many of us the opportunity of hearing some of our provincial ministers, and be responsible for enlarging our dwindling numbers.

In these days of sophistication, young people like big gatherings, with special music and a bright enough atmosphere to attract them and whenever I see crowds surging out of afternoon services in other halls in the city I am amazed that the Non-Subscribing Church has done nothing to compete

with this, except perhaps wonder why their churches and congregations are becoming fewer and fewer.

Other churches are enlarging and in each new suburb one sees churches of all denominations except ours, appearing. The other churches have come down from the mountain and invited the people to join them while we have sat by through the ages, watching our numbers diminish and allowing ourselves to become more and more misunderstood.

A bright Sunday afternoon service in the Rosemary Hall capable of attracting crowds would, in my opinion, be one way of re-establishing our presence. There must be many other ways to this end as well. Surely something is going to be done.

Yours, etc.,
CHARLES L. GILBERT.

"While we consider that the suggestion is interesting we feel that such a service might not attract such numbers as to serve its purpose particularly since several of our churches have already afternoon meetings. We hear that afternoon services in Belfast have not proved successful and that members of those churches which have no second service have not availed themselves of the opportunity of assisting those who are carrying on to the extent that they might." (Ed.)

APPEAL FOR COMFORTS.

The Manse, Comber,
December 11, 1939.

Dear Mr. Editor,—I should like to thank the following kind people who responded to the appeal for comforts for our own boys and men in the forces:

Mrs. W. McRobert, £1 for cigarettes.

Mrs. James Fisher, 10/- for cigarettes.

The Killinchy Women's League and members of Killinchy N.S.P. Church for a splendid parcel of beautifully knitted socks, helmets, mufflers and mittens.

Mrs. Dick, of Ballymoney, parcel of knitted garments.

The Comber branch of the W.L. has also supplied a large parcel of knitted articles, and a large parcel of clothes was sent to the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association.

Parcels of cake, chocolates and other comforts, exclusive of woollens were sent to men who would not be home for Christmas.

Larne W.L are sending parcels direct to the members of the forces who belong to their Church.

Only one name was sent by a minister and I am hoping that a branch of the W.L. will "adopt" him so that he will constantly be remembered.

I should be very glad to receive gloves—they are the biggest necessity at the present time of cold weather. Perhaps there are women members of our Churches who are not members of the W.L. who would like to knit for our own men—we should be glad of their help. Parcels can always be left at 35 Rosemary St.

Five shillings will pay for a parcel containing tins of fish, cigarettes, chocolate, milk-sandwich chocolate, butter-scotch, oxo, brilliantine—a substitution can be made for the cigarettes in the case of non-smokers—this cost includes postage and insurance. The parcels are sent through Cooks, of Royal Avenue, who accept full responsibility, to men of the forces who are serving in any part of the world.

EDITH D. DAVIES,
Hon. Fellowship Sec.

THE GOVERNOR'S FUND.

Dear Editor,—I have received the following communication from his Grace, the Governor of Northern Ireland, and I wish to submit it for the earnest consideration of our ministers and congregations.

"Dear Moderator,—

As you probably know, I have instituted a Fund in Northern Ireland known as 'The Governor's Fund,' which is to raise money for the Red Cross and St. John's War Organisation, and for kindred work in connection with the war, and I am glad to be able to tell you that this Fund is now approaching the £6,000 mark. I have already forwarded to the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross Appeal Fund the sum of £2,500, and have made smaller dona-

tions to the Polish Relief Fund, the Northern Ireland Branch of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association, and the Ulster Gift Fund for War Hospital Supplies and Serving Forces.

I am writing now to suggest that you might consider the possibility of inviting your clergy to hold special services in connection with this work for humanity, between 7th and 14th January, 1940, inclusive, and I would be extremely grateful if a portion of the collections made at these services could be devoted to the 'Governor's Fund.'

Yours truly,
ABERCORN."

I trust that all our congregations will make an effort to add to the resources of this very excellent Fund. The need is urgent, and the support of the gallant men who have gone forth to defend our homes and liberties should find a most generous response in the hearts of all our people. I shall be glad to forward to Government House any sums sent to me.

Yours faithfully,

J. GLYNNE DAVIES.

First Church, Belfast.—The Church has now been fitted with brown curtain material so as to allow of "blacking-out," and the Evening Service has now been resumed at 7 o'clock. Considerably increased attendances have been experienced with this revision to the customary hour for evening service. On the evening of Sunday, December 17th, the Church choir rendered selections from Handel's "Messiah," the soloists being Miss Anne Duthie (soprano); Miss Victoria Gordon, L.R.A.M. (contralto); Mr. D. Houston (tenor); and Mr. J. Laird (bass). Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., officiated at the organ. It is with great regret that the Church has taken leave of Miss Anne Duthie, consequent upon her engagement with the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company. Miss Duthie has served the Church for several years as leading soprano, and has at all times entered into the work with enthusiasm and splendid loyalty. All good wishes go out to her in her new life. A Carol Service is fixed for the evening of Sunday, December 24th. It was with great pleasure that we received a visit from the Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, the Rt. Rev. J. Glynn Davies, who conducted morning service on Sunday, December 10th. In view of the change in the hour of evening service, the Discussion Circle, which meets fortnightly on Sundays, has reverted to its customary hour of 3 p.m. On December 3rd, a Debate took place under the title: "That a United Christian Church is undesirable"; while on December 17th Mr. Nelson Brown, M.A., lectured on "Curiousities of English Literature." The Circle continues to provide interesting and informative Sunday afternoons, and affords opportunity for our young people to acquire the art of public speaking. The Minister's Morning Class has just concluded a series of studies on "The Development of Religious Ideas in Israel," and is now entering upon a series of studies in "English Literature." In connection with the latter, two successive Sundays were devoted to Poetry, on the second occasion readings from various poets, by way of illustration, being kindly given by Miss Amy McKelvie, L.R.A.M. The Church choir has recently enjoyed an "At Home" at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hamill, who are themselves enthusiastic members of the choir. The Junior Women's League have organised Carol singing again this year; they are visiting the houses of Church members, and any monies collected are to be given to the Domestic Mission. The Junior League, like the Senior Women's League, is busily engaged each week in knitting comforts for men in the Forces. Five members of the Church are now serving in the Forces. A Beetle Chase, organised by the Junior Women's League, on November 20th, realised a profit of £4 10s 0d., which sum is being devoted to the purchase of wool for further knitting. Our good wishes go out to those of our number who are on service away from home. May peace soon be achieved, and they return to us to renew the fellowship of sight and hand!

THE REV. WILLIAM SMITH, F.L.S, OF BALLYMONEY.

The Rev. William Smith was born on the 12th January, 1808, at Ballymoney. He was the fifth son of Samuel Smith, a linen bleacher who bought the lands and mills of Bahnamore, a hamlet about two miles from Ballymoney, from his brother-in-law, Joseph Ryan, and went to live there in 1818 (A list of flax spinning mills at work in 1826 includes "Smyth's near Ballymoney." Benn's "Belfast" vol. 2). In 1828 he became a juror of the Court Leet for the Manor of Dunluce a body that did the work of an Urban District Council of to-day.

In 1824 William Smith entered the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, whose General Certificate he got in 1827. In the Centenary Volume it is said: "In the College Department, Greek and Latin, Logic and Belles Lettres, Moral Philosophy, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, Hebrew, and (during Dr. Neilson's tenure of the Classical Chair) Irish, were taught by means of lectures and examinations. Examinations for a General Certificate were held at the end of each session, in all these subjects except Hebrew and Irish, and successful students were awarded a Certificate signed by all the professors and by the Moderator of the Synod of Ulster, and sealed with the seal of the Institution."

To these examinations all the Managers and Visitors were invited, and very many attended: the proceedings seem regularly to have begun with the entertainment of all guests at breakfast by the professors, and to sustain the guests during a long day, we find an annual item in the treasurer's account for cold collations for the guests at the examinations, sometimes larger, and sometimes smaller, but averaging over £15 a year. The examinations themselves were conducted orally by the professor, with occasional questions by some Visitor anxious perhaps, to display his own learning.

In 1829 Smith, who had originally been a member of the presbytery of Antrim, was transmitted as a student for the ministry to the care of the newly-formed Remonstrant Synod of Ulster, and in due time was licensed by one of its Presbyteries to preach the gospel. In 1830 he was chosen as minister of the Unitarian congregation of Dundee. He was its first regular minister. In 1832 he went to Moor Lane Church, Bolton, where, it's said, "he continued an acceptable minister for several years," not more than two in fact, for in March 1834 he accepted a unamimous call to St Peter's Gate, Stockport, where "he remained a beloved pastor" till June, 1845. During his ministry the congregation doubled in number; a new church was built; a liturgy compiled by Mr Smith from that of the church of England was adopted; the Sunday School was re-established, and the congregation placed in a flourishing condition.

On 13th February, 1838, he married Charlotte, the third daughter of William Coppock, of Stockport. There was one child a daughter of the marriage. In 1845 his thorn in the flesh, the gout, compelled him to resign and to seek in successive changes of climate relief from attacks. He acted as a supply at Torquay, in Jersey and at Bayshill Church, Cheltenham, and was from 1845 to 1847, minister of South Street Chapel, Wareham, and from 1850 to 1854, of Westgate Chapel, Lewes.

Smith had from his youth been an eager student of Natural History, and as he grew older he found his researches a "solace from pain and a pleasing occupation of his mind." Although well-versed in the knowledge of British plants generally, he determined to restrict his more immediate studies to one particular group—that which embraces microscopic organisms. His researches were marked by originality, perseverance, ingenuity, and complete success. He published in 1853 and 1856 two crown 8vo. volumes called "A Synopsis of the British Diatomaceae", illustrated by sixty-nine plates, containing figures of nearly four hundred species of that singular group. The late Professor Ehrenberg had declared these objects so minute, but at the same time so curious and interesting, to be animals, though with some remarkable peculiarities of structure and function. Other men of science had referred them to the vegetable kingdom, and by a series of observations of the most exact character, covering every known species and many hitherto unknown, and an investigation of every particular of their structure, nutrition, motion, and reproduction, Smith proved that the diatomaceae were not animalcules but minute plants. His book is quoted in the Dictionary of Natural Biography. "The Microscope and its Revelations," 1856, by Professor William Benjamin Carpenter, LL.D., C.B., (the father of Rev. Joseph Estlin Carpenter, D.D.) speaks of this admiradle monograph. The specimens that formed the materials for this work are now in the British Museum, and constitute a striking

memorial of his industry in collecting and his patience in determining them.

Towards the end of 1854 the Government, on the recommendation of the late Professor Edward Forbes, appointed Smith, now risen to an eminent rank among the Naturalists of Europe, to the Chair of Natural History at Queen's College, Cork. It is said that "his talents in communicating knowledge were found to be no less eminent than his power of acquiring and enlarging it. He was gentle and courteous alike to his students and his colleagues, and obtained the goodwill of all." His class became one of the most successful in college. "He continued throughout life a consistent Unitarian Christian, always having reason for the faith that was in him but never obtruding his own religious opinions upon others. His health had long been declining and he died, "full of religious hope and consolation" on 6th October, 1857. He was buried at Inniscarra' an old burial-place at the junction of the River Bride with the pleasant wakes of the River Lee, in the valley of the Lee, about five miles west of Cork, and was followed to the grave by many of the professors and students of Queen's College and of the inhabitants of the city.

MY PETITION

These things chiefly do I desire:
To bake and sow and make a fire;
A garden plot to plant and tend;
The frequent visits of a frieud;
Long useful years with joys to share;
Health to life's end—home, calm, faith, prayer.

Carrie G. Davies.

The Viscountess Snowden is the President of the Band of Hope Union this year in succession to Dr. Rattray, and in the acceptance of the office, says: "I hope that a new vision of a country voluntarily denying itself the use of alcohol as a beverage may become a positive fact in the year that lies in front of us, fraught as it is with the menacing evils of barbarism and materialism."

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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian **can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.**

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Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

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BELFAST CHAPTER

—:o:—

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from:—

MR F. A. ROBINSON,
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